

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
ABERDEEN, IDAHO  
and  
IDAHO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
ABERDEEN, IDAHO

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF BALTIC RUSH  
FOR LAND RESOURCE REGION B EAST  
SELECTED CLASS OF NATURAL GERMPLASM

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station announce the release of a selected ecotype of Baltic Rush (*Juncus balticus*) for Land Resource Region (LRR) B East.

As a Selected release, this plant will not be given a name, but will be referred to as the Sterling selection of Baltic Rush to document its original collection location. The Sterling selection is released as a Selected Class of certified seed (natural track).

This alternative release procedure is justified because existing commercial sources of Baltic Rush are inadequate. Propagation material of specific ecotypes is needed for ecosystem restoration, enhancement, and construction of wetlands. The potential for immediate use is high, and commercial potential beyond specific wetland uses is probably limited. No commercial cultivars of Baltic Rush have been released at this time.

<b>Species:</b>	<b><i>Juncus balticus</i></b> Willd.
<b>Common Name:</b>	<b>Baltic Rush</b>
<b>Plant Symbol:</b>	JUBA
<b>Accession Number:</b>	9067411

**Source:** Sterling Wildlife Management Area, just north of the town of Aberdeen, Bingham County, Idaho.

**Collection area Information:** Stands are located within Sterling Wildlife Management Area. Very little variability among JUBA stands was observed within the boundaries of the WMA. This variability was judged to be inconsequential. Therefore, any collection of JUBA located within the WMA boundary would be considered a constituent of this Selected Release. Stands are located in Section 12 and 13, Township 5 South, Range 31 East. Elevation is between 4300 and 4400 feet, the soils are mostly poorly drained calcareous loams.

**Method of Selection:** From a Baltic Rush collection found in Land Resource (LRR) Region B East, which includes Major Land Resource Regions (MLRAs) eastern 1/3 of 11, all of 12 and 13.

A total of 14 JUBA collections were evaluated at the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center from 1991 to 1995. All collections were evaluated for survival, vigor, overall growth and spread, potential seed production, above ground biomass production, stability of land ownership, and public accessibility. A total of three populations of JUBA were compared from LRR B East. The Sterling population was superior to other populations in this ecoregion in terms of vigor, overall health of the population, stability of land ownership, and public accessibility. Based on these criteria, the Sterling selection of Baltic Rush was selected for release.

**Description:** *Juncus balticus* is a perennial, rhizomatous, facultative wetland plant. Stems are upright, round, wiry, and grow up to 3 feet tall. Leaf sheaths are clustered at the base, bladeless or nearly so. The inflorescence consist of panicles borne laterally on the culms.

**Anticipated Conservation Use:** The potential uses of the Sterling selection of *Juncus balticus* include erosion control, Constructed Wetland System applications, wildlife food/cover, wetland creations and restorations, and for increasing plant diversity in wetland and riparian communities. Its tendency to spread rhizomatously makes the Sterling selection an excellent plant for soil stabilization in sites which are saturated up to 2 or 3 inches of standing water. The rhizomes also form a matrix for many beneficial bacteria making this plant an excellent choice for wastewater treatment.

**Potential Area of Adaptation:** *Juncus balticus* is facultative wetland plant, commonly found around the borders of wetlands, and meadows throughout the Intermountain West. It inhabits poorly drained soils which are saturated or have up to 2 or 3 inches of standing water. It will tolerate periods of inundation. The Sterling selection would be an excellent choice for use throughout the ecoregion defined as LRR B East.

**Seed Maintenance:** Breeders seed will NOT be maintained by the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center. To make collections of the Sterling selection of Baltic Rush, contact the Sterling Wildlife Management Area Manager, Idaho Fish and Game, Southeast Region, 1345 Barton Road, Pocatello, ID 83204-1819, (208) 232-4703. For official Selected tags to verify genetic identity of these plant materials, contact Idaho Crop Improvement Association (208) 377-3420.

**Signature sheet for release of a selected class of:**

**Sterling Selection of Baltic Rush (*Juncus balticus*)** for Land Resource Region (LRR) B East from Sterling Wildlife Management Area, just north of the town of Aberdeen, Bingham County, Idaho.

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Dr. Richard C. Heimsch \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
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